

REMARKS

Claims 16 to 18, 20, 21, 26, and 27, have been canceled. New claims 31 to 33 have been added. Claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added to the claims. Claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 33, are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Claims 16 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Claims 16 to 18, 20, 21, 26, and 27, have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of those claims is moot. The remaining claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 30, have been amended to correct the indefiniteness matters (i.e., antecedent bases, et al.) in the claims. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 30 are believed to be in a condition for allowance. And, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of those claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 19, 22, 23, 24, and 28, recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action that claims 19, 22, 23, and 24 recite allowable subject matter. On today's date, Examiner King explained via telephone explained to Applicants' patent attorney, Linda Lecomte, that claim 28 also recites allowable subject matter. Claims 19, 22, and 28, have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claim(s) and intervening claim(s), and any indefiniteness issues which is believed to now be overcome by amendments to the respective claims. The remaining claims depend from one of claims 19, 22, and 28. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 30 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 16 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 4,485,270 to Honda et al. ("Honda reference").

On today's date, Examiner King explained via telephone to Applicants' patent attorney Linda Lecomte that the 102(b) rejection applies only to claims 16 to 18, 20, 21, 25 to 27, and 30. The remaining claims have been canceled or amended to depend ultimately from one of the allowed claims, thus, the rejection of those claims is now moot.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 33, are believed allowable for the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the rejections have been obviated, and that all claims 19, 22 to 25, and 28 to 33, are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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